

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of a wood body having increased surface hardness, comprising

impregnating an untreated wood body with an aqueous solution of

A) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of a reaction product of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one ~~modified~~ with a C₁₋₅-alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, and n-pentanol, or a polyol selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol, glycerol, and polyethylene glycols of the formula $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{H}$, where n is from 3 to 20 and mixtures thereof, and

B) a catalyst selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts, metal salts, organic acids, inorganic acids and mixtures thereof, and

drying and then hardening at elevated temperature.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein an impregnating agent C) selected from the group consisting of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-dimethyl-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, dimethylolurea, bis(methoxymethyl)urea, tetramethylolacetylenediurea, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)imidazolidin-2-one, methylolmethylurea and mixtures thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein an impregnating agent D) selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol [[or]] and mixtures thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 3, wherein methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, n-pentanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol, glycerol, polyethylene glycols of the formula $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{H}$, where n is from 3 to 20, or mixtures thereof are concomitantly used.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 4, wherein methanol, diethylene glycol or a mixture thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnating agents A) and, optionally, C) and D) are used in a concentration of from 1 to 60% by weight in the aqueous solution.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of metal halides, metal sulfates, metal nitrates, metal tetrafluoroborates, metal phosphates and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 7, wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate, zinc chloride, lithium chloride, lithium bromide, boron trifluoride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride, zinc nitrate, sodium tetrafluoroborate and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein ammonium salts selected from the group consisting of ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium oxalate, diammonium phosphate and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein organic or inorganic acids selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, formic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, oxalic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, boric acid and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein magnesium chloride is used as catalyst B).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst B) is used in a concentration of from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the amount of the impregnating agent A) and, optionally, C) and D).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is dried at a temperature of from 20 to 60°C.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnated and dried wood body is hardened at a temperature of from 80 to 170°C.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 14, wherein the impregnated and dried wood body is hardened at a temperature of from 90 to 150°C.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnated and dried wood body is hardened over a period of from 10 min to 72 hours.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein, after the impregnation and drying, the wood body is fixed so that a change in the shape of the wood body during the hardening is counteracted.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 17, wherein the wood body is fixed in a heatable press.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A wood body having increased durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness, obtained by a process according to claim 1.

Claim 20 (New): A process for the production of a wood body having increased surface hardness, comprising

impregnating an untreated wood body with an aqueous solution consisting of

A) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of a reaction product of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one with a C₁₋₅-alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, and n-pentanol, or a polyol selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol, glycerol, and polyethylene glycols of the formula HO(CH₂CH₂O)_nH, where n is from 3 to 20, and mixtures thereof;

B) a catalyst selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts, metal salts, organic acids, inorganic acids and mixtures thereof;

C) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-dimethyl-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, dimethylolurea, bis(methoxymethyl)urea, tetramethylolacetylenediurea, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)imidazolidin-2-one, methylolmethylurea and mixtures thereof;

D) a C₁₋₅-alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol and n-pentanol, or a polyol selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol, glycerol and polyethylene glycols of the formula HO(CH₂CH₂O)_nH, where n is from 3 to 20, or mixtures thereof;
and

water, and

drying and then hardening at elevated temperature.

Claim 21 (New): A wood body having increased durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness, obtained by the process according to claim 20.

Claim 22 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnating agent A) is a reaction product of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one with methanol.

Claim 23 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnating agent A) is a reaction product of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one with diethylene glycol.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnating agent A) is a reaction product of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one with a mixture of methanol and diethylene glycol.